

POST-LETTER

TO THE

Gentlemen of England :

Or, The Certain Way to Save ENGLAND, not only Now, but in Future Ages, is by a Prudent Choice of Loyal, Religious, and Well-affected MEMBERS to Serve in the next ensuing PARLIAMENT.

Gentlemen !

SINCE His Sacred Majesty King William (whom God Almighty long preserve to Reign over us) has been the instrument of our Defence hitherto, from *Popish Superstition and Idolatry*, and that in a Day, when England was never in more Danger of being *Priest-Ridden* by Rome, and Yok'd to the Tyranny of France, than at that time. Since our said Deliverer, has like *Jehovah's* Man of War, gone out to fight the Battles of the most High, and therein, out of a Tender Love to his People of England, and an Abhorrence to the Usurpations of a Tyrant, and Enemy to all that's good, expos'd His Precious Life to the hottest of Battels, to the most imminent Dangers : Since the Almighty God himself, having so signally taken Notice of his Pious Zeal for the Promoting and Establishing his pure Religion in these His Kingdoms, by preserving him Miraculously in War abroad, and from all the Hellish Designs of Assassines at Home. Since we our selves have as becomes us, Submissively by Solemn Vows and Protestations, Addressed His Majesty, upon the Audacious Insolency and Ridiculous Pretensions of *Monsieur of France*, in setting up one begot perhaps like himself, to Reign over us, a pretended Prince of Wales. Since that the Grand Enemy to all the World, and particularly to Poor England, in his Superannuated Years, is Mad to Dye Lord of the Universe ; set the said Prince of Wales over us, impose on us the Belief of more Gods than One, by establishing the *Romish* Religion among us ; Prophane our Churches, Debauch our Wives and Children, Rob us of our Estates, Rights, Liberties, and Properties, to which we were Born, as a Free People ; and Cut our Throats, and make *Smithfield* the City Oven to Burn our Martyrs in. I say, since all this is to fully known by all People, it wou'd be but Vanity in me to Enumerate any more Particulars. What then shall we do for the Man whom the Lord has appointed to Honour ? Shall we, like the Children of *Israel* Murmur at our Deliverer and Leader ? Impertinent, and Saucy Language from a Child to his Fathers, renders him a Rebel ; and, shall we Contemn our Kingly Father, and affront him with Insolency and Pride to his very Face ; and not be thought *Rebellious* ; For shame to such may it be spoken, who are the instruments of ingratitude and impiety, only to make the *French* King Laugh, who we are all sensible, won't be served so himself.

But methinks I hear you begin to say, What remains that we must do for him ?

Why, I say, only perform your promises. Sure there are none among you, but what wou'd be Angry if your Words cou'd not be taken for an indifferent Summ ; you have Pawn'd your Words, your Honours, your Estates, Nay, your very Lives to stand by him, Assist him, and inable him to suppress the growing power of *France* : And thus far have ye all shewn your selves Good and True Men ; Friends to the King, Friends to the whole Nation, and Friends above all to the interest of God and the Protestant Religion.

Remember therefore *Korah, Dathan, and Abiram*, who went out of the Congregation from before *Moses*, (after they had been Corrupted, and strove to Corrupt others) with their *Male contents*, for which they were Destroy'd. And, as *Moses* said unto them, To morrow the Lord will shew who are his. So say I to you Gentlemen. In a few Days will be seen, who are the Nations Friends ? Who are

those who hate to be Brib'd by a *French* Man, and whom God will Bless with wisdom, to Consult his Majesty's good Intentions, for the bringing down the intollerable Pride of the *French* King.

But to inable my Country men, to effect the performance of their Promises to His Majesty, I must beg Leave of 'em to consider the following Directions, for their Chusing Members to serve in the next Parliament. viz.

1. **A** Void all such as hold any Office of considerable Value during Pleasure, they being subject to be Over awed. For although a Man wish well to his Country and in the Betraying thereof, knows, that at the long run, he Mischiefes and Inslaves his Posterity, if not himself, yet the narrowness of Mens Minds is such, as makes them more tenderly apprehend a small present Damage, than a far greater hereafter. Such Men must of necessity be under a great Temptation and Distraction, when their Consciences and Interest looks different ways.

2. Meddle not with Men of necessitous Fortunes, or much in Debt. The Representatives of a Nation, ought to consist of the most Wise, Wealthy, Sober, and Courageous of the People, not Men of mean Spirits, and little Figure, and sordid Passions, that would sell the Interest of the People that choose them, to advance their own ; or be at the beck of some great Men, in hopes of a list to a good Imploy. Those that have fair Estates, have in a manner given Hostages to their Country, and must be Errant Fools before they can play the Knave with you.

3. As you are not unadvisedly to chuse such as retain to the Court at home, so much less are you to Elect any such as have their Dependance upon Foreign Princes or States, these are under strong Obligations to see you ruined ; for your own Reason will tell you, that no Foreign Power will Prodiggally throw away his Pistoles, where he expects not an Harvest answerable to his Seed. 'Tis possible this Caution may not be unnecessary, for 'tis more than suspected, that there are some such degenerated English-men, who having forsaken the Interest of their Native Country, have sold themselves to an Outlandish Interest, that they may the better gratifie their own Ambition, and those Potent Lusts, which their own meaner Fortunes could not otherwise feed or satiate.

4. Be not over fond to receive Bribes and Gratifications, from Persons that would fain make a Prey of you, and by their Purples, Lavish Treats, and Entertainments, would allure you to prostitute your Voices for their Elections ; you may be assured they would never bid so high for your Suffrages, but that they know were to make their Markets. Chuse the worthy unwilling Person, before the Complemental unworthy Man, whose extraordinary Forwardness, Prognosticates he seeks not your Good, but his own, separate from the Publick. Let us not play the Fools or Knaves, to neglect or betray the Common Interest of our Country, by a base Election ; let neither Fear, Flattery, or Gain, Bias us. Consider with your selves, what Losers you will be, if to Laugh and be Merry one day, the Person you chuse, should give you and your Children occasion to Mourn for ever after. --- Say not, He's but a single Person, one Man

Man cannot do such Hurt.—Silly Men! What if all other places should be as bad as your selves? Then all the House would be of a piece; and besides, do not you know, that sometimes a single Man has carried a Vote, which perhaps was no less Mischievous than Irretrievable? Think how justly the gallant ancient Heathens may upbraid this Baseness of us Christians, when as they Sacrificed many of their Children, nay, and oftentimes their own Lives, for the good of their Country: So on the contrary, do we Sacrifice our Laws and hazard both our Religion, Lives, Children, and Country, for the Swinish Pleasure of a day or two's Debauchery.

5. Make not the Publick Choice the Recompence of private Favours: 'tis not pleasing a Neighbour, because Rich and Powerful, but saving of *England* that you are to regard. Neither pay nor return private Obligations at the Cost of the Nation. Sir John is a pretty Gentleman, and treats People civilly; and my Landlord is a good Man, and has been kind: and Esquire such a one is our next Justice of Peace, but yet I will not give my Voice contrary to my Conscience, or have an Hand in a Choice that may ruin my Country, to gratifie any or all of them. Men do not use to lend their Wives, or give their Children, to satisfy personal Kindnesses; nor ought you to make a Swop of your Birthright, (and that of your Posterities too) for a Mess of Pottage, a Feast, or a lusty Drinking Bout; there can be no Proportion here, and therefore none must take it ill, that you use your Freedom about that which, in its Constitution, is the greatest Bulwark of all your ancient Liberties.

6. Fly & no Prodigal or Voluptuous Person, for besides that, such are not regular enough to be Law makers, they are commonly idle, and though possibly they may with well to your Interest, yet they will rather loose it than their Pleasures; they will scarce leave one of their Nightly Revelings, to give you your attendance and service next day, and therefore they are not to be relied upon. And upon this occasion I shall borrow the Words of the Author, to whom I do not much desire to be beholden; *Some Senators are drawn from their Duties by Pleasure; perhaps a Party at Tennis, Bowls, Cards, a Pack of Dogs, a Cock Fight, or a Horse-match, a Comedy, a Good Fellow, or a Mistress. And while they are thus employed, the Vigilant Faction steals a Vote that is worth a Kingdom.*—Some again are transported with the Vanity of Dress and Language, that rather than serve the Publick with one Hair amiss, or in one broken Period, they will let the Publick perish, *Malent Republicam tubari, quam capillos.* These, while the Country lies at Stake, are ordering of their Heads, and Polishing the Phrase; *Shapinge be parts of a Set-Speech, till it is too late to use it.* Nothing, methinks, does less becom a Grave Assembly, than this *Facultatula Loquendi*; this same Rhetorical Twistle-Twattle, it spins out so much time, in tedious Circumstance, that it makes a Man ev'n sick of a good Cause, and for the very Form, prejudice the Reason of it. — Sloth and Neglect, are yet more dangerous in a Senator, in regard of Surprises from the Faction; these thin a wet Day or a cold Morning, a sufficient discharge of their Attendance; and while they are taking a ther Nap, or t'other Bottle, the Monarch perhaps has lost the Crown, or the Subject his Liberty.

7. Avoid all those that play the Protestants in De-

sign, and are indeed disguised Papists, and prophane Darning roaring Boys, who are ready to pull off their Vizards on the first Opportunity. You may know them by their Clubs, Cabals, Saucy and Atheistical Harangues.

8. As for your Citizens, Burgeses, and Freemen, of Cities and Corporations in particular, I shall only say, *That whosoever is not fit to be chosen Knight of the Shire, is likewise unfit to be chosen a Burges.* Neither let the more specious Pretences of any Man, that shall promise to build you a Town-hall, or relieve the Poor with Money, or out of his adjacent Woods, or any such Good-morrows, deceive you; for if so, wherein are you Wiser than your Horses, whom you catch every day, and clap a Bridle into their Mouthes, only by shewing them a few Oats, which they are never like to Eat? *Even the very Mice are too wise to be taken by an old Bait, but will first have the Trap new Baited before they'll meddle.* And yet I have known a Corporation which has been taken TWICE by the same Bait. But suppose these men do really perform what they Promise, what Compensation is that, if the same men should lay a good swinging Tax upon your Estates, without a real Cause? What good would the Money for your Poor do in such a Case, more than, that when you are thereby reduced to Beggary, you might, perhaps your selves (the Gentry of the Country having no reason to relieve you) be oblig'd to come in for a small Share of this their Hypocritical Charity? An excellent Reward, for so doing and saying, *Oh! this is but One Man, and can have but One Vote, he will do our Town a great deal of Good, and can do us but little Hurt if he would, &c.* Besides, no man can tell the Influence that one running, unmannerly Talkative ill man, may get over the rest of the House, especially those that weigh silly Verbal Vanity, more than Sense and Reason, or the Interest of their King and Country.

9. Take care to chuse such as are well known to be men of good Consciences, fearing God, thoroughly Principled in the Protestant Religion, and of high Resolution to maintain it with their Lives and Fortunes.

10. Endeavour to chuse men of Wisdom and Courage, who will not be Affronters of Majesty, nor be Frighten'd from their Duty by the Frowns of Enemies to the Government.

11. Make it your business to chuse such as are resolved to stand by, and maintain his Majesty's just Rights, and the Power and Privilege of Parliaments, so as the one may not intrench upon the other.

12. And Lastly. Chuse those who have shewn themselves most Sensible of the Affronts the French Tyrant has contrary to Faith and Honour impos'd upon our King and Hero, by pretending to set up the Nominal Prince of W. to be his Deputy Tyrant over us. Such who are for the assisting his Majesty in those Alliances and Treaties he has already made with foreign Princes. Such in a Word, who will readily open their own Purse, and find immediate Means and Ways to raise Sums sufficient to reduce the Exorbitant Pride and Power of France, force the French to thrust the Snake out of his Bosome, leave off Perfecting his Protestant Subjects, and his Children after him, dread the Apprehensions of Violating their Faith and Honour.

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Prof Robert F. Stebbins